

Mermaids: The Body Found, Sunday April 17

By Brad Newsome

April 11, 2011 — 12.00am

Animal Planet, 6.30pm

Here's a new low in supposedly educational television. It's a fake feature-length documentary that doesn't 'fess up to being fiction until a disclaimer pops up at the end. Until then we have what looks like a slick documentary about the discovery of mermaids and a conspiracy to keep them hidden. There are grainy photos and video footage of what are supposed to be mermaids and mermen, and a bunch of actors playing earnest scientists claiming to have inspected the remains of a mermaid before the men in black swooped. It's silly as hell but at least the CGI mermen look OK, like greenish versions of the things from *Avatar* but with Cornish pastie seams down the middle of their skulls. They're far too skinny, though - even the clowns from *Fact or Faked: Paranormal Files* once pointed out that mermaids would have to be as tubby as dugongs.